



For Immediate Release  
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## **CRWCD Votes to Support Referenda C and D**

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO – The Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Conservation District put its unanimous support behind two ballot measures up for voter approval this November. Referenda C and D are supported by the Board as reasonable and responsible measures to address the state's current fiscal troubles and prevent further erosion of state programs, including those affecting water management and water quality. Noting that "water rights are only as good as their administration," the Board expressed its concern over the more than \$1 billion in state budget cuts from 2001 to 2003 and the effect it has had on state agencies that administer water resources and are in charge of ensuring the quality of the water we consume. The combination of earlier voter-approved measures, state legislative actions and economic conditions has conspired to create Colorado's current budget crisis.

The Board also appointed representatives to two of the "basin roundtables" that will be convened as a result of legislation passed by the State's General Assembly this year. The law resulting from passage of House Bill 1177 aims to initiate dialog between the different river basins within Colorado to resolve disputes and enter into agreements about use of water resources. The enabling legislation requires the Colorado River District to make appointments to three of the nine roundtable groups representing the interests of the major river basins within the state. The Board appointed two of the District's senior staff members to fill open seats. The Board appointed Dan Birch as a representative to the roundtable in the Yampa, White and Green River Basins in northwest Colorado. Dave Merritt will have a seat on the mainstem Colorado River roundtable. A third appointment for the Gunnison River Basin roundtable is pending further consultation with potential representatives. Each basin roundtable will have a diverse group of representatives to encompass a wide variety of perspectives on water issues.

In other Board action, three existing policies were revised and a new policy was adopted. The Board approved a new policy regarding enforcement of the Colorado River Compacts and updated policies concerning opposition to interstate water marketing, continued support of the Colorado River Storage Projects Act and continued opposition to transmountain diversions without adequate mitigation.

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